II. Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

In paragraph (5), the Office Action provisionally rejected claims 1-14 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of co-pending application Serial No. 08/217,067.

In a telephone interview held November 29, 1996, paragraph (5) was removed from the Office Action. The one month shortened statutory period set in paragraph (5) was also vacated.

III. Arguments Related to Prior Art References

A. The Office Action Rejections

In paragraphs (1)-(2), the Office Action rejected claims 1-5 and 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over James M. Bloom, "Experience Implementing BIND, A Distributed Name Server for the DARPA Internet," (Bloom) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,187,790 to East. In paragraph (3), the Office Action rejected claims 6-8 as being unpatentable over Bloom in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,303,379 to Khoyi.

The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

B.   The Applicant's Claimed Invention

The Applicant's invention comprises a method and system for performing automated resource management. A plurality of servers are grouped into local servers and regional servers. Each of the local servers stores resources, while each of the regional servers stores profiles of resources associated with the local servers. The local and regional servers are linked together so that profiles and resources can be electronically transferred therebetween. The system also includes one or more PCs coupled to the servers. Each of the PCs can store profiles of resources on the regional servers, can search all of the profiles in all of the regional servers, and can access a resource from any of the local servers based on the searched profiles.

C.   The Bloom Reference

The Bloom reference discloses a distributive computer system where multiple servers are connected on a domain tree (Figure 2). Larger area servers (Edu, Com) are responsible for the domain of smaller servers (Berkeley, Xerox) that are on the same branch of the domain tree. The larger area servers act as a quick router for requests of servers that are farther down the branches of their domain.

D.   The Khoyi Reference

The Khoyi reference discloses a link mechanism for linking data between objects and for performing operations on the linked data in an object based system. The object based system includes an extensible set of object types in a corresponding set of object managers, wherein each object manager is a program for operating with the data stored in a corresponding type of object.

E.   The East Reference

The East reference discloses a system for determining the rights of object access for a server process that combines them with the rights of client process. A server process temporarily impersonates the characteristics of a client process when the client process performs a remote procedure called on the server process. Each process has an identifier list with a plurality of identifiers that characterize the process. The server process generates a new identifier list which is either the same as the client process' list or is the union of the servers and the clients lists. Each object in the system can have an access control list which defines the identifiers that a process must have in order to access the object. The operational system has

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access checking software for enabling a selected process access to a specified object when the identifiers for the process match the list of identifiers in the access control list of the specified object. The server can therefore access all objects accessible to the client while the server is working for the client. The server then restores the original identifier list after completing the services that it performs for the client.

F.   The Combination of References as Compared to the
       Applicant's Claims

The Applicant respectively traverses the rejections in light of independent claims 1, 5, 6, and 9. The references, taken individually or in any combination, do not teach or suggest the novel elements of the Applicant's independent claims.

More specifically, the references do not teach or suggest the Applicant's claimed limitation directed to each of the regional servers storing profiles of resources associated with the local servers.

Further, the references do not teach or suggest the Applicant's claimed limitations directed to local and regional servers being linked together for electronically transferring profiles and resources therebetween.

The Bloom reference does not teach or suggest the Applicant's claimed limitation of storing profiles of resources associated with the local servers. While Bloom does teach distributed multiple servers with a tree structure, (see Page 174), it teaches away from storing profiles of resources associated with the local servers.

Bloom does not teach or suggest that any of the servers contain profiles that contain descriptive information about one of the resources stored in any of the other servers in the tree. Bloom merely discusses a naming convention which allows one server to access another, not a means for locating information on another server as in the present invention.

Further, the naming convention of Bloom is not analogous to the profiles of the present invention. The Bloom naming convention is a linked list of pointers, not a single pointer from the large area (e.g. regional) server (Edu) to the smaller area (e.g. local) server (LCS). Even if Bloom did show a single pointer from the large area server to the small area server, the pointer does not disclose the information stored on the small area server.

Further, Bloom does not teach or suggest the Applicant's claimed limitations directed to electronically transferring

profiles and resources between local servers and regional

servers. Further still, Bloom does not teach or suggest the

Applicant's claimed limitations directed to means for searching

all of the profiles in all of the regional servers. Finally,

Bloom does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations directed

to accessing a resource from any one of the local servers based

on its searched profiles.

The East reference disclosure of access checking does not

cure any of the deficiencies of the above-discussed deficiencies

of Bloom. For example, East does not disclose or suggest the

claimed feature of storing profiles of resources in regional

servers, or the claimed feature of searching all of the profiles

in all of the regional servers. Further, none of the references

suggests that the modification to East indicated by the Office

Action at page 4 would be desirable, or that such modification

would cure the above-discussed deficiencies of Bloom.

The Khoyi reference also fails to cure the deficiencies of

Bloom. For example, while it discloses a link mechanism for

linking data between objects, it does not recognize the recited

features of storing profiles of resources on regional servers,

searching such profiles in all the regional servers, and

transferring profiles and resources between local and regional servers.

Applicant notes that the claimed invention provides advantages over the cited prior art references, and would therefore not be obvious even if the references individually disclosed all the claimed elements. The Applicant's invention provides a system for storing information in a manner in which retrieval is simplified, requiring only one call to a regional server to determine the resource associated with that server.

IV. Conclusion

In conclusion, since independent claims 1, 5, 6, and 9 of the present application recite features which are not found in the references, the Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 5, 6, and 9, and hence all the claims dependent thereon, recite novel physical features which patentably distinguish over any and all references under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Moreover, the dependent claims recite additional novel structures, functions and steps that are even more remote from the teachings of the cited references. As a result, the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of the present application without further delay.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectively solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

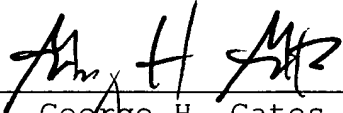   Respectfully submitted,

                              David M. Siefert

                              By his attorneys,
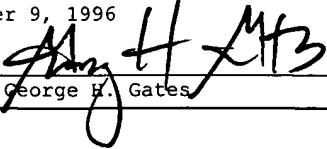
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Dated: 12/9/96   By: _____
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By: _____
Name: George H. Gates

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